

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A planar light source unit comprising:
a light source;

5 a light guide plate having a light incident surface through which light from the light source enters, a light exit surface through which light exits, and an anisotropic diffraction grating formed on the light exit surface or a surface opposite to
10 the light exit surface for diffusing light in a principal diffusing direction along the light incident surface; and

a prism sheet for collecting light traveling from the light incident surface to an opposite side
15 surface, having a plurality of prism structures on a surface opposite to the light exit surface, each of the plurality of prism structures having an apex angle of larger than 65 degrees and smaller than 68 degrees.

20 2. A planar light source unit according to Claim 1, wherein the anisotropic diffraction grating comprises a hologram pattern integrally formed on the light guide plate.

25 3. A planar light source unit according to

Claim 1, wherein an apex angle of each of the plurality of prism structures is 66 degrees.

5 4. A planar light source unit according to Claim 2, wherein an apex angle of each of the plurality of prism structures is 66 degrees.

10 5. A planar light source unit according to Claim 1, wherein the anisotropic diffraction grating does not substantially diffuse light in a direction perpendicular to the principal diffusion direction.

15 6. A planar light source unit according to Claim 1, wherein the light guide plate has smooth prism structures on a surface opposite to a surface where the anisotropic diffraction grating is formed for controlling an emission angle of light exiting through the light exit surface.

20 7. A planar light source unit according to Claim 2, wherein the light guide plate has smooth prism structures on a surface opposite to a surface where the anisotropic diffraction grating is formed for controlling an emission angle of light exiting
25 through the light exit surface.

8. A planar light source unit according to Claim 1, wherein the prism sheet is directly placed on the light exit surface.

5 9. A planar light source unit according to Claim 2, wherein the prism sheet is directly placed on the light exit surface.

10 10. A display device, comprising:
a planar light source unit; and
a display panel displaying images by controlling transmission of light from the planar light source unit;
the planar light source unit comprising:
15 a light source;
a light guide plate having a light incident surface through which light from the light source enters, a light exit surface through which light exits, and an anisotropic diffraction grating formed
20 on the light exit surface or a surface opposite to the light exit surface for diffusing light in a principal diffusing direction along the light incident surface; and
a prism sheet for collecting light traveling
25 from the light incident surface to an opposite side surface, having a plurality of prism structures on

a surface opposite to the light exit surface, each of the plurality of prism structures having an apex angle of larger than 65 degrees and smaller than 68 degrees.